

vessel in accordance with subpart C of part 181 of this subchapter.

*Issuing authority* means a State that has a numbering system approved by the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard where a State numbering system has not been approved.

*Lienholder* means a person holding a security interest.

*Manufacturer* means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing or importing new vessels for the purpose of sale or trade.

*Owner* means a person who claims lawful possession of a vessel by virtue of legal title or equitable interest in it that entitles that person to such possession.

*Participating State* means a State that has elected to participate in VIS and has been certified as complying with the participation requirements in subpart C of this part. Certified States participating in VIS are listed in Appendix A of this part.

*Person* means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or governmental entity and includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, or similar representative of any of them.

*Security interest* means an interest that is reserved or created by an agreement and that secures payment or performance of an obligation and is valid against third parties generally.

*State* means a State of the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

*Titled vessel* means a vessel titled in accordance with the laws of a State.

*Titling authority* means a State whose vessel titling system has been certified by the Coast Guard as complying with the guidelines for State vessel titling systems listed in this part. Titling authorities participating in VIS are listed in Appendix B of this part.

*Vessel* includes every description of watercraft other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

#### § 187.5 Vessel identifier.

(a) The vessel identifier is the hull identification number (HIN) assigned to an undocumented vessel in accordance with subpart C of part 181 of this subchapter. The vessel identifier for a documented vessel is the official number assigned by the Coast Guard in accordance with 46 U.S.C. chapter 121.

(b) If the vessel does not have an HIN, the vessel identifier for vessels subject to the numbering requirements of parts 173 and 174 of this subchapter is the number issued on a certificate of number by the issuing authority for the State in which the vessel is principally operated.

(c) If a vessel subject to the numbering requirements of parts 173 and 174 of this subchapter is transferred to a new owner, or the vessel is required to be numbered in a new State of principal operation, or application for a title is made, a hull identification number meeting the format requirements of § 181.25 shall be assigned by the issuing authority for the State in which the vessel is principally operated in accordance with the State's established procedures if the vessel does not have a valid HIN.

#### § 187.7 Participation procedures.

(a) To participate in VIS, a State official within the department must submit a written request to the Commandant (G-OPB) and certify that the State will comply with the VIS participation requirements in subpart C of this part.

(b) Appendix A of this part lists those States that have elected to participate in VIS and comply with the participation requirements prescribed in this part. A State will remain listed in Appendix A of this part as long as it continues to comply with the participation requirements in subpart C of this part.

[CGD 89-050, 60 FR 20315, Apr. 25, 1995, as amended by CGD 96-026, 61 FR 33670, June 28, 1996]

#### § 187.9 Procedures for certification of compliance with guidelines for State vessel titling systems.

(a) Under 46 U.S.C. 31322(d), a mortgage or instrument perfected under State law for a vessel titled under the